

THIS ISSUE

Story  
for The  
children

# SPASTICS NEWS

JUNE 1966 PRICE 6d THE MAGAZINE OF THE SPASTICS SOCIETY





## DELEGATES TO THE SPASTICS SOCIETY EDUCATION SEMINAR



Members of staff of The Society seen in a group photograph in the quadrangle of St. Edmund Hall, Oxford, with the distinguished Educationists assembled for the occasion on a very cold and snowy week in April. Mr. James Loring, in the centre of the front row, the Assistant Director Services, organised the event, and writes his impressions on page 5. Mrs. Margaret Peter, the Editor of our sister publication, *Special Education*, is standing in the back row but one, sixth from the right.



# SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

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### the '62 club conference

#### Front Cover Picture: Princess Marina opens Meadway Works

In the spacious dining-room at the Works, the memorial plaque was unveiled by Princess Marina in the presence of members of the Society and other well-wishers. Dr. D. E. Wheeler is on the left and the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt. Rev. J. L. Wilson, C.M.G., is on the right.

## THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1 Tel. MUSEum 5020

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H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent

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C.B.E., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C





# The Society's Hundredth Centre

## Princess Marina Opens the Birmingham Factory : Praises Voluntary Workers

### DR. WHEELER'S SPEECH OF WELCOME

**Y**OUR Royal Highness, My Lord Mayor, My Lord Bishop, Ladies and Gentlemen:

'To all of us in the Society, Meadway Works and the Broadstones Hostel represent a special milestone, and so it is with particular pride and pleasure that I welcome Your Royal Highness this afternoon.

'This is a very significant occasion for the Society and, because we know and value so greatly the deep and sincere interest which Your Royal Highness has always shown in our work for spastics, we are greatly honoured by your presence here today.

'The Society's objective is to enable spastics of all ages to enjoy as full and independent a life as their disabilities will permit, and in saying this, Ma'am, I am mindful of the fact that what was regarded as impossible ten years ago is practicable today. Meadway Works should therefore be regarded by us all as a stepping stone towards a further life in the future and not as an achievement in itself, beyond which no progress could be expected.

'The Society has shown what can be done for spastics and has set a pattern that the world both recognises and is following. We cannot, however, alone make complete provision for all spastics and must be proudly content in the role of pioneer, co-operating fully with Government in the establishment ultimately of comprehensive services.

'Your Royal Highness, it is my pleasure and my privilege this afternoon to invite you to declare Meadway Works and Broadstones Hostel open.



*AT THE WORKS: During her tour of Meadway Works, Princess Marina stopped and spoke to many of the workers; here she is watching Barbara Skinner and Clive Heath employed on cycle component assembly, accompanied by the Lady Mayoress, Mrs. G. Corbyn Barrow*

### 'It Was Wonderful to Meet Her'

**T**O the spastics who work at the fine new Meadway Factory, Garretts Green Lane, or who live at the spacious new Broadstones Hostel, a short distance away, 26th April, 1966, will be remembered as the day when our Royal Patron, H.R.H. Princess Marina, Duchess of Kent, came to visit them. For the Society it was the achievement of the 100th Centre.

She was declaring the £500,000 project open. She had flown to Birmingham in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, accompanied by Lady Rachel Pepys, and having been greeted by the Lord Mayor, Alderman George Corbyn Barrow at the airport, arrived at Meadway at 3.15 p.m.

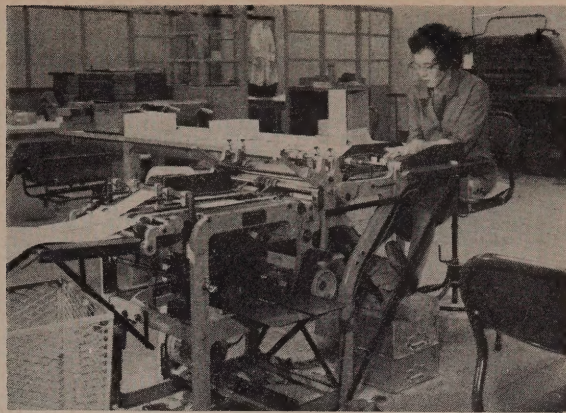
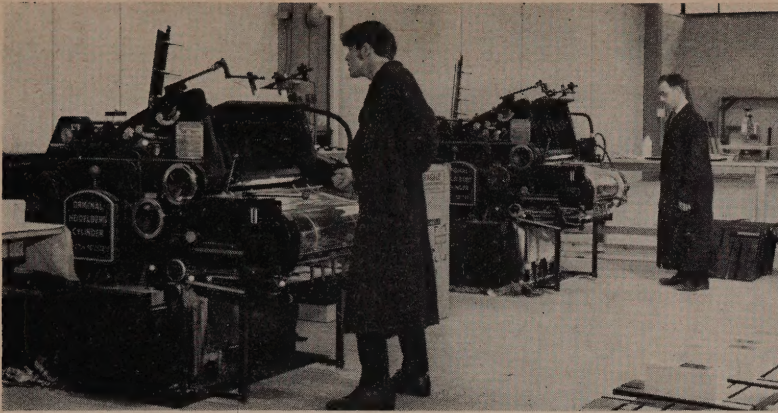
She was wearing a white hat and a navy blue suit set off by a pearl necklace and diamond brooch, and she was presented with a marcasite brooch made by Miss Myrna Johnson of Shrewsbury. In her gracious speech she paid particular tribute to 'the host of voluntary workers who give up much time and skill without thought to themselves', to help spastics live as full a life as possible.

Mr. R. G. Miller, General Manager, replied and described what the project was designed to achieve in the way of more independence for spastics, and the Bishop of Birmingham, the Rt. Rev. J. L. Wilson, an impressive figure in purple cassock and golden crucifix pronounced the blessing.



*AT THE HOSTEL: At Broadstones Hostel, the Princess expressed her admiration of the layout and modern facilities for the residents, and the Manager, Mr. A. T. Walker was presented to her, with other senior members of staff*





(Above): Charlie Bickley and John Taylor, the first spastic printers in Birmingham, operating Heidelberg presses; (right): Veronica Evanson, who has the use of her hands but not her legs, operates a folding machine at 80 per cent of the standard speed generally attained

## The Factory that means A New Way of Life

**T**HE fire alarm resounded through the new modern factory, and in 65 seconds the building was cleared. The General Manager, Roger Miller, looked approvingly at his Works Manager, Harry Cragg, grinned and said: 'Not bad'.

There was no fire. It was a routine fire practice. But as the workers returned to their benches the importance of speedy evacuation was obvious.

For they came, not on foot but in wheelchairs or with crutches, pushed and propelled by the foreman, the chargehands and the instructors.

**The factory is Meadway Works, Birmingham.**

Built by The Spastics Society for spastics too severely handicapped to obtain employment in open industry, it is believed to be the first of its kind in Europe.

It cost about £500,000 and will give full-time employment to 100 young men and women from all over the country who will live in comfortable purpose-built hostels. It will also employ a further 20 young spastics from Birmingham who are able to live at home.

With one or two exceptions, many of these spastics have been living on National Assistance, dragging out their days in the enforced isolation of their own homes. Others have spent a few hours a day at local work centres, while some have had training at The Society's Training Centre at Welwyn Garden City but have been unable to follow this up and find a job in open employment.

Now they are working for a living. And their cheerfulness, willingness, interest and obvious ability are evidence not only of the need for such a factory, but of its assured success.

For it is, in fact, a factory. Registered under the Factory Act, inspected regularly by factory inspectors.

All the staff have come direct from industry. This is their first contact with spastics and they are amazed and delighted at the increasing progress of the trainees.

Payment for training is made by the Ministry of Labour for the first two or three months. When the training period takes longer than the stipulated time, The

Spastics Society then takes the financial responsibility and thereafter pays their wages. The Society also shoulders the additional cost of running the hostels.

The thriving City of Birmingham was undoubtedly the right place to put such a factory. For the managers are determined to make it self-supporting and to do this they needed the interest and co-operation of local firms. That this has been forthcoming is evident from the variety of light engineering jobs now being produced at Meadway Works for local firms.

The capstan lathes which are kept very busy include an Accuratool with full programme control and a Herbert model which has partial programme control. These machines enable spastics who can stand and have one good hand to operate them efficiently. There are also drilling and tapping machines, milling machines, fly presses, steel saws and soldering equipment.

Some of the work being undertaken includes the making of screws, parts for carburetors, box spanners, gear blanks, compressor accessories and filing down and fitting together buckles for the Zambia police.

Prices quoted are fair and competitive and are based on normal production in normal workshops. The reaction from firms who have placed orders with Meadways Works is satisfaction tinged with

slight surprise at the efficient and speedy service given.

Light engineering takes up half of the factory floor. On the other side of the large open workshop is the printing plant which is under the supervision of a trade union master printer. Using modern printing machines spastics are, for the first time, able to print coloured brochures, and leaflets, billheads, letterheads and labels.

The one disadvantage on this type of work is that spastics are not physically capable of setting and loading the printing machines. And so because of the time factor for the master printer only long runs of 50,000 upwards can be accepted. But given bulk printing, there is no limit to what they can produce.

Attached to the workshop is a fully-equipped laundry at present being used for domestic purposes.

Staff and workers share a large, modern canteen where local caterers serve really good meals at reasonable prices.

Because of their physical handicaps, finding the right work for each spastic needs a great deal of thought and in this factory it means fitting the person to the job, not the job to the person.

But despite these unusual working conditions the foreman, chargehands and instructors find that every day brings them some new surprise. To them this new project is a challenge and one they are determined will succeed. In this they are helped by the willingness of the spastics themselves, who are prepared to attempt any job that is asked of them.

But the new-found happiness of these young people, although directly due to the fact that they are working members of the community, has another reason.

Once the working day is over and they get back to their hostel, they are free to come and go as they please. And the people of Birmingham are giving them the one thing that all spastics crave for—acceptance as ordinary people. For the first time in their lives they have their pint and throw darts at the local, go to football matches, visit theatres, cinemas and shops. Society has at last accepted them.

(Reprinted from Birmingham Evening Mail & Dispatch)

by *Therese Appleby*



# The Spastic Child and the Outside World

by J. A. LORING (Asst. Director Services)

EVERY YEAR TEACHERS from the Society's Schools and from other special schools meet with psychologists, doctors, administrators, and others working in the field of Special Education to discuss the problems of educating spastics. The meeting is usually at an Oxford College, although last year it was at Durham. The group usually meets for a week and consist of about 80 participants. No matter what their standing; eminent professors or class-teachers, all are equals for the duration of the Seminars; they share the college junior common room, eat together in the hall; all have the same sort of accommodation, much of which is quite primitive, built many years, sometimes centuries ago, for very young men with very little interest in personal comfort: even now, St. Edmund Hall, where this year's Seminar was held is without central heating of any sort.

Planning a Seminar takes approximately 15 months. A beginning was made on the 1967 Seminar before the 1966 Seminar was held. Participating in the Seminar is hard work. There are usually about 40 papers and discussion periods and sometimes one or two special symposia. Participants bring films, demonstrate new equipment and these and other extra-curricula activities usually have to take place in the evenings. The Seminar is divided into about eight study groups each considering and reporting on a special subject and this work must also be fitted into the programme. One tries to arrange for some free time and this year there was an afternoon visit to Blenheim Palace and a tour of the Oxford colleges.

Every education Seminar has a particular theme; last year's was *'Teaching the Cerebrally Palsied Child'* which whilst it proved to be a rather narrow subject nevertheless enabled us to examine in depth a number of important problems, such as whether there are sensitive learning periods during which children learn

particularly well and, perhaps, after which they will not learn a particular subject at all or with extreme difficulty. There were also special sessions on the learning problems of the sub-normal and one or two notable psychological contributions.

This year the subject was wider and dealt with *'The Spastic School Child and the Outside World'*. On the first day we were concerned with the pre-school problems. There was a paper by Drs. John and Elizabeth Newson, now well-known for their studies on child rearing practices, which dealt with parental attitudes towards young children. Lady Francis-Williams, who has been visiting a number of Local Centres gave a paper on *'Co-operation between Parents, Local Groups and Official Services'* and Miss E. Stephen a paper on *'Intellectual Assessment During the Pre-School Years'*. There were other papers by Dr. R. Wigglesworth, Paediatrician at Wilfred Pickles School, Dr. R. Forrester, Chairman of our Wigan Group and Mr. Leslie Gardner, the Secretary Principal Psychologist.

On the second day, the Conference moved to consider a number of problems which often arise between family and school, and a number of our headteachers gave papers which put the case well from the schools' point of view. We had tried to get a parent to give a paper from a parental point of view but for one reason

or another this was not possible.

On the third day, we broadened out into the School and the Community and in the afternoon dealt with the future training of teachers of the handicapped. Every year there are quite notable psychological contributions and Sunday morning was devoted to this area of work. There was an important paper by Professor Alan Clarke of Hull University on *'The Problems of Teaching Subnormal Persons'*, in which he made it quite plain that in his opinion we very often do not set our sights sufficiently high and that sub-normal persons were often capable of undertaking more difficult tasks than we think.

Monday provided a break from the main subjects that had been developed and a symposium was held on *'Marriage and the Cerebrally Palsied'*. This was introduced by Dr. C. P. Stevens and there were short papers by Dr. Elizabeth Whatley, the Society's Psychiatric Consultant, Miss M. Morgan, Head of the Social Work and Employment Department, and also by Dr. Julia Dawkins, who is concerned with sex education in the Oxford schools. A paper was also given by Mrs. K. Edwards, a Marriage Guidance Counsellor. These papers provided a most stimulating discussion and a large number of Seminar members took part.

The Press are not present at Seminar sessions but every evening they are provided with hand-outs and extracts from the hand-outs on marriage appeared in the National Press and in a large number of local papers. The morning ended with a description by Father Michael Hollings of the work of a University Chaplain.

It is, I think, important that teachers should have as much information as possible about what is likely to happen to their pupils after they leave school, and on the Tuesday I was able to give the results of a survey which I had undertaken at our adult residen-



A view of the 'Academical Hall of Residence' where the Conference took place, showing a blend of architectural styles



tial centres. The statistics of this survey underlined the very heavy physical handicap of a majority of our residents. They also threw some interesting light upon the intellectual abilities of our residents and as a result of the survey it is quite evident that we have a greater mixture of intellectual levels than we thought.

The last session of the Seminar was a *Symposium on Research*. We had hoped that Professor Jack Tizard would have arrived back from America in time to be with us but unfortunately this did not happen. However, Mr. Asher Cashdan from the University of Manchester took his place on a panel which consisted of Miss Elspeth Stephen, Mr. Simon Haskell and Mr. Leslie Gardner. The discussion was opened by brief statements by four of our Headmasters on what the teacher would like to know. The panel dealt quite expertly with the problems of the recruitment of research workers and also explained to the teachers present the sort of work that it was reasonable to expect research psychologists to undertake and produce quick results and the sort of work which was likely to take very much longer and perhaps in the end prove to be almost abortive except perhaps for incidental 'fall-out' results.

### What are the Advantages of a Seminar?

What are the advantages of spending money on Education Seminars? although a number of the participants have their fees paid by their employing Authorities, for others the Societies must bear the whole cost. Quite plainly the money spent is what might be called 'seed' money. One plants seeds and sometimes the crop of flowers is excellent and sometimes the packet will produce next to nothing. The word Seminar, of course, derives from the word seed. One is in fact trying to plant ideas, ideas which will cause us all to think more deeply, ideas which will be of direct use in the classroom. The Seminars also provide interdisciplinary discussion; discussions between psychologists and teachers, between teachers, and administrators, between doctors, psychologists and teachers. Each discipline goes away knowing at least a little more about the problems which face the others and as a consequence finds it much easier to deal with other disciplines in the future.

Sometimes Seminars are exceptionally productive and ideas sown and things said are talked about for years afterwards. The proceedings are published every year. Last year's were entitled 'Teaching the Cerebrally Palsied Child' and are available for 15s. They are published by the Spastics Society in the association of William Heinemann. This year there will be a similar publication in September.

# The Speech Therapist is a Member of a Team

by RENA STEPHENS (*Daresbury Hall*)

THE AIM OF SPEECH THERAPY in relation to cerebral palsied patients is to improve communication. Now it is well recognised that the term 'cerebral palsy' implies multiple problems and I feel that since this is so, every endeavour must be made to combine the knowledge of everyone working in this field, such as the Educational Psychologists, the Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists.

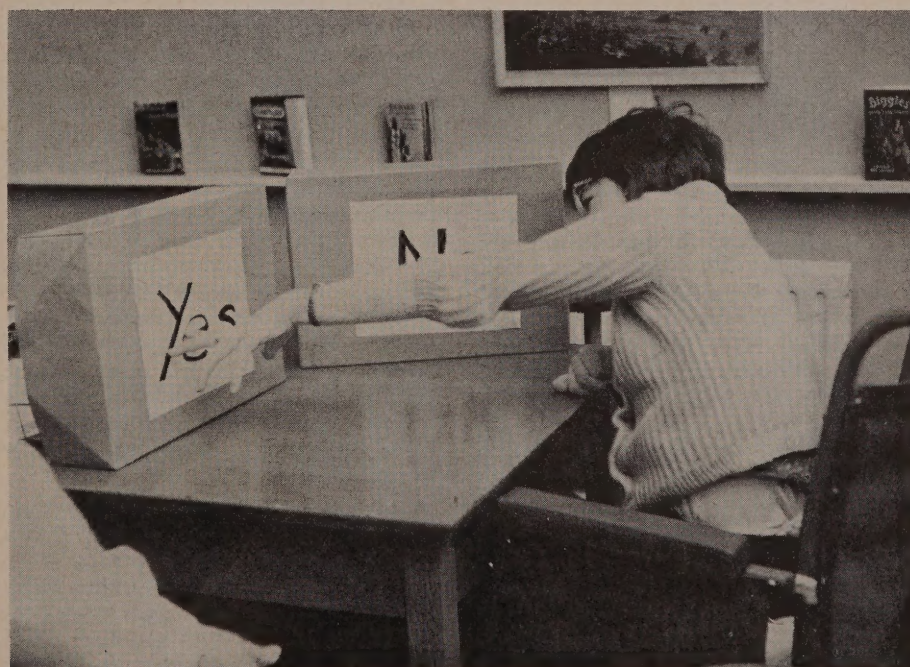
At the Centre for Spastics Children at 61 Cheyne Walk, London, for instance, I saw this team work in operation and was so very impressed. To those of us who were doing the six weeks' course for therapists a splendid example was given. We also studied all the various methods of treatment so that we could consider the condition from different aspects.

At present I am at Daresbury Hall, near Warrington which is a residential centre for physically handicapped adults who have limited and slow learning abilities—the age range is from 16 to 50. I also visit a pre-school spastic centre run by a local group in Chester and work there for a few sessions each week. My programme is therefore varied, and although working in

the same field of cerebral palsy in each centre, the problems are vastly different and require varying techniques.

When I first see a patient in the clinic, I try to see the handicap as a whole. Speech, after all, is but one aspect of the patient, and a very detailed enquiry is needed to ascertain his general health and the history of the condition, and to acquaint oneself with his physical and emotional stand-point. The developmental age of the patient may be well behind the chronological age and this can have an important bearing on the speech production of a spastic. Perceptual difficulties may also be present and allowances are made for these when carrying out test procedures, and it depends on the judgment of the therapist whether referral to another specialist should be the next step.

If, after the history has been taken, this is not in fact necessary, the diagnosis is made and treatment is planned. One notes whether the lips, tongue and vocal cords are affected or whether the brain damage has resulted in disturbance of language function or whether there is a combination of these conditions. (A



*This girl who cannot speak, can communicate with the use of visual aids as shown here*



## The Speech Therapist is a member of a Team

(Cont'd)

specific terminology is used to describe these defects, so that a detailed record of the speech can be kept, but it is, perhaps, too technical to detail here.)

When deciding on treatment there are two problems which bear close relationship to the condition of speech, and these are first, the breathing of the patient, and secondly his skill in feeding.

### Structural Abnormalities

If it should be that the chest wall is affected by any structural abnormality, then the breathing can be impeded. Spasm can also affect the normal breathing patterns and the voice may be rendered weak as a result. If, as an infant, the patient has not had proper feeding patterns established, then the organs of articulation have not been fully prepared to adapt to speaking. This can seriously affect production of sounds and in some patients feeding can be something which requires help throughout life. The speech therapist therefore aims both to modify the breathing patterns if at all possible, and also to suggest ways in which the feeding patterns may be improved. In such cases the speech therapist should discuss the feeding problems with the houseparents or nursing staff, so that the overall treatment could proceed harmoniously, the one helping the other.

It is very important too, that the hearing of every cerebral palsied patient should be tested, as there is a high incidence of deafness. This procedure requires great skill so the speech therapist should seek the help of the audiologist and work with him if necessary.

We also value the educational psychologist's assessment of the innate ability of the patient which naturally has a great bearing on his speech, and will consult him frequently. Other investigations such as the request for a lateral X-ray showing particularly the organs of articulation may also be made. The result of one of these at Daresbury recently proved of immense importance to one patient, as it was then found that he had an abnormally short soft palate. His interests, age and intelligence, should all be considered, and then the sessions can be planned so that they are enjoyable as well as beneficial. (I have found that a sense of humour is a vital necessity in all age groups!)

Treatment should be carried out at regular intervals throughout the week, and under ideal conditions those with severe speech defects should be seen at least once



*Here the patient's lips are being moved in front of a mirror to aid sound production*

or twice a week. Reiteration of the exercises means that new patterns are more securely established and results are naturally obtained more quickly. If the patient is living at home the parents are asked to co-operate; or the houseparents if he is in a residential centre. They have the special opportunity of making close relationships with the residents and they may also be able to contribute information which we as therapists may never gain. It may be helpful if I describe a speech therapy session, although none is typical.

### A Recent Session

To give an example of a Speech Therapy session with an adult patient who finds difficulty in saying certain letters I shall describe a recent session with L.S. He came in and told me that he now had a new house-mother, and we discussed this change in some detail. I asked about the practice given the previous week—only to be told that, since he had had toothache during the week, he had not practised as he should have done! (While one naturally stresses the importance of regular practice, one obviously has to be prepared for various excuses. On one occasion some years ago, a little boy told me that he could not practise because his little brother cut up his speech book and made a paper dart out of it!)

L.S. and I continued with the session revising the work given last week. I then gave him some practice in listening to the correct production of 'S'—a sound which he finds difficult as his tongue co-ordination is not good. I told him that I was going to say the sound correctly and asked him to listen carefully. He was then

warned that I would next say it incorrectly. Once he had clearly differentiated between the sounds, I gave him a string of sounds—some correct and some incorrect.

It was then his turn to attempt the sound and we used the large mirror to enable him to watch more clearly. When he had mastered it, I gave him some words commencing with 'S', writing them in his book so that (all being well!) he could practise during the week. At a later session, we introduced words beginning with 'S' and put them into phrases and sentences.

We concluded on that afternoon by talking about his role in the discussion to be held in a few days' time. This is only one example of a session—no session can be described as typical as they vary so much according to the defect.

It may well be that a therapist may be working on a few sounds in the same session—part of the session may be devoted to voice and breathing exercises. In cases with language difficulties, the therapist may present to the patient a variety of material in order to teach one particular word, for example: a cup may be shown, a picture of a cup is also available and the therapist says 'cup'—slowly and clearly. In this way, all the sense pathways of the patient are correlated and this aids the learning process.

Tongue-thrust is one of the major problems in cerebral palsy speech and this needs to be prevented. Recently the technique of using ice to stroke the tongue to overcome this difficulty has been investigated and in some cases has been found beneficial. It may also be necessary to build up or stimulate language or to strengthen





*At a meeting of the '3.30 Special Club', The Chairman, Terry Adamson, addresses the Group, Arnold Ogden is Secretary and Anne Lacey, Treasurer. Also present (L. to R.), Ronald Regan, Kevin Barry, Julian Andrews, Geoffrey Swain, Miss R. Stephens, Carol Entwistle, Heather Jude, and Sonia Adams*

the voice caused by faulty breathing patterns. Perfection is not usually aimed at—and personally I feel well pleased if there is enough improvement to achieve better communication. I find a tape recorder is a useful piece of apparatus and also an auditory training unit—this amplifies the sound so that the patient can hear the therapist's voice more clearly. He has to be able to discriminate between correct and incorrect sounds before he can copy accurately.

Some of my patients sometimes wish to discuss other problems with me and time is often well spent in this way, but I have no hesitation in referring to other specialists if necessary. For instance, a physio-therapist may well be able to induce a relaxed position in the patient when he will respond so much better to speech stimulation. The work of Dr. and Mrs. Bobath as regards the various reflex-inhibiting positions has been invaluable in this connection.

At Daresbury Hall there are some residents whose speech is not severe enough for regular speech therapy to be justified on an individual basis, but it was thought that they would benefit from group treatment to improve their ability to express themselves more clearly. We therefore started a sort of club that we christened the '3.30 Special', which meets fortnightly for an hour. The residents elected a Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer from amongst their own members and I go merely as an adviser and observer.

So many decisions have been made for them throughout their lives for which

they have not been responsible in any way, but at our '3.30 Specials'—when asked their opinions on various matters they are both flattered and challenged and respond by being amazingly animated and constructive—even to the extent of suggesting that they should make donations to those less fortunate than themselves!

It has always been our custom at Daresbury to encourage outside groups of people to be friendly with the residents and to visit them in the evenings, and in recent months we have been able to introduce a few more visitors to Daresbury Hall. The residents have benefited tremendously—especially when the invitation is returned and they are asked out to a concert or to a local youth club. Several people in the area have also volunteered to take out residents for one hour each month and the warden and staff are confident that the pleasure of the guests will be matched by the satisfaction of their hosts. I only hope that my efforts will enable them to express their thanks in the way they would surely wish to do.

## Openings in June

**KYRE PARK**, Worcester, June 4th, by Mr. Paul Cadbury.

**OAKWOOD CENTRE**, Essex, June 16th, by Dr. Albert E. Sloman.

**BUXTON** (Adult Residential Centre), June 18th, by The Duke of Rutland.



## Dr. Wheeler Resigns

Dr. D. E. Wheeler, C.B.E., B.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.I.C., has, on medical advice, announced his resignation as Chairman of The Spastics Society. He has been Chairman for over three years since February, 1963, when the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics, of which he was Chairman, was merged with the National Spastics Society. Mr. W. A. Burn, F.C.A., the Hon. Treasurer, has since been elected Chairman, and Mr. J. F. G. Emms and Mr. A. Moira continue as Vice-Chairmen. Mr. H. W. Palmer, B.Com., has taken Mr. Burn's place as Hon. Treasurer.

MR. BURN here pays tribute to Dr. Wheeler's outstanding services to the cause of spastics:—

'I have worked with Denis Wheeler on the Executive for the last three years, as well as on the Joint Working Party leading to the Amalgamation, and I think the Society has been fortunate indeed in his services. We have been through a difficult phase, but Dr. Wheeler, by his drive, tact, patience and understanding has safely carried us through, and now we are reaping the benefits of the merger: the Society is stronger and on a firmer foundation. He has a remarkable ability to sift important matters from the less important, and he has given of his time gladly and unselfishly. I wish to express on behalf of everyone in the Society our gratitude to Dr. Wheeler and our good wishes to him and Mrs. Wheeler for the future.

'We have been fortunate in finding the right Chairmen at the right time—Ian Dawson Shepherd, Jack Emms and more recently Denis Wheeler.

'I am all too aware that my task is not an easy one, but with the experienced support of the two Vice-Chairmen, Jack Emms and Alex Moira, the Executive Committee of which Dr. Wheeler will still be a member, and the help of members of Local Groups throughout the country, I promise to do my best in the interests of the Society.

'Let us go forward together to serve spastics. The road is long and arduous, but we have already come some way together.'



# USEFUL SUGGESTIONS AT BRISTOL MEETING

## Employment Tax Menace

### Mr. Emms Takes the Chair

THERE HAS BEEN AN Extraordinary General Meeting as distinct from the Annual General Meeting, each year since the formation of the N.S.S. and since amalgamation of the British Council for the Welfare of Spastics and the National Spastics Society in 1963 in different provincial centres; this year it was the turn of the Western areas, and over 200 members made their way to Bristol on May 14th for the occasion.

The Executive Committee is sensitive to the wish of the Groups and Regions that as close a liaison as possible should be maintained one with another; they are aware that grievances must be aired and problems discussed. But the atmosphere of this Conference was not one of contentious fault-finding but of constructive concern.

Mr. J. F. G. Emms took the place of Dr. Denis Wheeler in the chair, in view of the latter's impending retirement, and conducted the meeting with his usual finesse.

### The Employment Tax

With that week's Budget very much in everyone's mind the question of the new Employment Tax loomed large.

Mr. Emms was understandably cautious in his approach to this question, in view of the paucity of detail available, but the situation as regards the Society's work stands out in stark simplicity. It amounts to this—unless we as a charity can obtain exemption it will cost us a great deal of money, it is estimated up to £60,000 for the Society and £20,000 for the Local Groups. It would apply to 80 per cent of the employees in schools, centres and administration.

Owing to the special nature of the treatment of cerebral palsy cases—where the heavier the handicaps the heavier the cost—the physically handicapped of educationally sub-normal rating require a ratio of 1-1 of staff, easing off to 1-7 at residential centres. Therefore this tax would amount to an imposition on the handicapped which is an indefensible breach of faith in the context of the Welfare State and, considering that the Society's income comes as a gift from the already severely taxed individual sympa-



*On the platform at Wills Memorial Hall (left to right): Mr. A. Moira, Mr. J. F. G. Emms, Dr. C. P. Stevens, Mr. W. G. Jehan, Mr. S. Hastings and Mr. J. A. Loring (in front, Mr. J. L. Peterson)*

thiser, our income is hardly likely to go up.

The cruel dilemma is therefore posed of providing the same services at a greater cost, or fewer services for the same cost.

We can only hope that the protests of the public, and private representations to the authorities and amendments to the Bill in Committee will relieve us of this Tax.

There were three Resolutions on the Order Paper, the first referred to the Society's Regulations which were formally adopted by the General Meeting.

Numbers 2 and 3 were proposed by Mr. W. G. Thomas, nominee member for Gloucester and District Association.

One asked for more time for questions and discussion from 'the floor' at General Meetings of the Society, and the other asked the Executive to consider the holding of two Conferences a year for group representatives.

These were both passed with a noticeable lack of enthusiasm. For one thing, the Chairman said that in his experience there were not usually enough questions, and secondly if discussions rambled on too long, any meeting would rapidly get out of hand.

As regards the second suggestion, the meeting was divided. The cost of holding such Conferences has to be considered for a start, and their organisation takes up a lot of the hard-pressed staff's time for another. In general it was thought that the present arrangements of the two General Meetings per year was adequate, but if further meetings should become necessary they would be arranged. Charges of 'parochialism' were unfounded when in fact Regional Officers were in constant touch with the Chief Regional Officer and with each other.

It is true, as Mr. Moira said, that the development of the various services and schools, etc., of the Society had been erratic and had accorded perhaps more with the overall national picture rather than particular local needs, but that was

now being intensively studied and he hoped remedied. Mr. J. A. Loring (the Assistant Director Services) also mentioned that the pattern now developing was more in the direction of local centres.

### The Local Group

The theme of the Conference was the Local Group considered in its relations with (a) the Society, (b) Services to Spastics and (c) Appeals, and many useful suggestions were put forward.

There was a question as to whether the Society's 'image' had lost sympathy, and Mr. Hastings, Chairman of Halifax and District, felt that it had to a certain extent. But Mr. W. G. Jehan made the good point that Oxfam makes a greater impact with its *paid* publicity but we were still getting tremendous support from the public. Both Mr. H. Wolff (Chairman, E. Midlands Regional Advisory Committee) and Mr. A. Rogers (Chairman, Chesterfield and District Group) made a very firm stand on this however. They agreed that fund-raising was a matter of active work and new ideas—if Groups wanted funds they had to go out and raise them.

Dr. Stevens did not think the Society had lost sympathy because its appeals were still successful. Mr. A. Moira thought that self-appraisal was necessary, and Mr. J. A. Loring put it to the meeting that a middle-aged image was dangerous—we had to encourage the younger generation to take an interest in the work.

Asked about the progress of our Research Unit, Mr. Burn said that patience was necessary, small gains would be made but a dramatic break-through was a matter largely of persistence and luck. Certainly members would be kept informed of any new development.

In the afternoon delegates visited the Offices of Regional Pool Promotions which was extremely interesting, and then the Bristol Works Centre.

**The Editor.**



# 'Enthusiasm was the Keynote'

Bill Hargreaves introduces the

## '62 CLUBS' CONFERENCE AT NOTTINGHAM AND SOME OF THE SPEAKERS

THEY came from all over Great Britain and from Australia, Belgium, Canada, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Italy and Denmark, the largest gathering of spastic adults and other handicapped people ever held in this country. Not only did they come by rail, car, coach, sea and air, through rain, sleet and snow, but they kept on coming! Some travelled overnight from Canada, and then faced an even longer journey in terms of time by coach to Nottingham. Two from Scotland arrived at 5.00 a.m. on Saturday, and one of Ron Firman's efficient team of voluntary drivers was there to meet them!

Rapidly they were all booked in, issued with badges and shown to their rooms. Afterwards a convivial time was had around the excellently appointed bar brought in specially for the occasion. That first night some 150 were dealt with efficiently and quietly by a spastic staff, supported at the last moment by Mrs. Hargreaves who very nobly took the place of a member who went down with 'flu.

Eventually the task was completed, and a very tired but triumphant staff fell into bed at around 2 a.m., only to be up again at 6.30 a.m. in time to knock on 150 doors to make sure all were down for 8 a.m. breakfast.

There followed a half-mile walk to the conference hall. What a sight it was—just

on 200 delegates enthusiastically welcoming, Mr. Peter Haigh, The Spastic Society's Assistant Director of Appeals, who had come to declare the Conference open.

Enthusiasm was, I think, the keynote of the Conference, the theme of which was: *Spastics and Society*. Excellent speakers, splendid food and superb accommodation. We are very grateful indeed



*A view of the Rutland Hall, Nottingham University, where the delegates stayed*

Lady Mayoress of Nottingham, Alderman and Mrs. W. Derbyshire and Mr. and Mrs. H. Wolff.

Our Italian friends could not speak English, and so we are most grateful to the five interpreters who kindly volunteered their services—one of whom spent the entire Saturday night translating into English a fine paper by Miss Gabriella Bertini, who flew complete with wheelchair from Rome.

The principal speaker was a Swiss lady, Miss Gertrude Saxer who, although in a wheelchair and suffering from an advanced stage of muscular dystrophy, flew from Zurich in order to be present.

At the conclusion, when asked if they wished to have a Conference annually, every single hand was raised, some even asking for one lasting a week!

That the Conference was a success was, in large measure, due to the herculean efforts of Dr. Ron Firman, our voluntary Area Club Organiser, and the staff of the University who went to great pains to see all were comfortable, and his splendid team of voluntary drivers.

Most of all, however, my thanks are due to the delegates, who by their happy enthusiasm pushed aside minor hitches and swept the Conference to an unqualified success.

## 'Have a Go!'

by **MARIANNE WEST**

'The basic meaning of leisure is that it takes us away from our ordinary day to day activities; in other words, whether we be at home, or whether we be in the office, or the factory, or the Work Centre, or any Centre, we must be taken out of this environment and put into another one with new people, new faces, and new topics to talk about.'

MOST PEOPLE WOULD SAY straight away that we have all the time in the world, so therefore we should have plenty of

### DELEGATES ARRIVING



### QUOTES

Upon packing up the bar the two barmen were heard to remark 'and not a glass was broken!'

\*

'We came expecting invalids, but instead met scores of personalities'—a delegate from Switzerland.

\*

'I wish this Conference Hall was in a city square so that the public could see'—a member of the Press.

\*

'I'm not going to kill myself—not even for Bill Hargreaves!'—an exhausted delegate when offered a lift.

\*

'For once we have been treated as adults'—a rather surprised delegate.

to our speakers, and abbreviated versions of some of their papers are reproduced in this issue. Very unfortunately we cannot reproduce them all, but a booklet giving the complete papers is being published, and will be available shortly.

The highlight of the occasion was a magnificent six-course dinner, yes—with wines—on the Saturday evening, at which the guests of honour were the Lord and





*Mrs. Marianne West addresses the meeting. Chairman for the session, David Sills from Leicester looks thoughtful*

leisure activities, but, believe me, we don't. Whereas it takes the normal person perhaps half-an-hour to get dressed in the morning, it takes us an hour-and-a-half, or at least, some of us. So that means that from 7.00 or 8.00 a.m. until 8.30 a.m. we are dressing, then we have to have a meal. If we have good parents our meal is prepared and put on the table, and the plates are washed up afterwards, so we don't have to worry about that, but if we did, just think what time it would take us!

### Unable to go to Work

Now let's consider the situation of spastic people who, because they are so heavily disabled, are unable to go to a Work Centre, office or factory. I think it's terribly important for them to get away from their homes, even if it's only for one evening during the week, because you know what it is when you're living with a person all day long, or all the week, you tend to get on one another's nerves, and little things can become big things. But if they can meet new people, hear of new problems and learn about new activities, it does them a tremendous amount of good, even if they can't play table-tennis and physical things like that.

I have no personal experience of what it is like to work in a day centre, but even where they go so far as to organise the leisure time for the people there, they obviously have other problems. They are picked up every morning from their home, taken to the Centre, where they work with about 30 other spastic people all day long, then, if it's not their club night, they are taken home again. Once there, they have

## the '62 club conference

the interest of relating to their family what had gone on during the day, making them one up on the person who has to stay at home.

But even if it's their club night, they are *still* with the people that they have worked with during the day, which is not a good idea. I do know that many of you work in offices and factories with your own social clubs, and I will go so far as to say I believe they are not well attended. What's the reason?—simply that you have worked with the people all day and don't necessarily want to converse with them at night, and that is one of the chief problems of the spastic person working at a day or work centre.

### The Office-Worker

Now the problem of the spastic person at work in an office or a factory. These people you may say, have the scope to meet the people with whom to form real leisure time activities. I agree with you, they have. They, more than any of us, have the best chance to go ahead and become accepted by the normal people around them, and to have their own private lives. But—is this so? Since I have been working with Mr. Hargreaves I have been round to quite a number of the clubs, and I have often been entertained in your homes, and I have spoken with you, and a number of you say to me that you're fed up, you're bored, because you can't seem to get across to the people that you work with. You can't seem to be able to get them to take you as one of them. When they are talking in the office about football, cricket, dancing, at the local palais, they went to the pub last night and had a

jolly good time—you are out on a limb. You didn't go. Why didn't you go? Well, this is one of the things we have to face. It is not always physically possible for you to do these things, but you could have gone to the local, and you could have gone, probably, to watch football if you are a man, or cricket—but you *weren't asked*. Therefore you come home, and you chew over what went on in the office, and you chew over what went on in the factory, and you start to pick on little things that cropped up, and they become mountains, and not the molehills they really are.

It is not possible to generalise about leisure time, for everyone has their own likes and dislikes, and ideas. I can't say to you that the answer is necessarily for you to join the '62 Club—but if any of you here don't belong I could suggest that the answer to your worries, sir or madam, is to join a '62 Club! But it might not be, it probably won't be, if you're not a club person, and a lot of us aren't club people.

### Something To Do

For those of you who have joined the '62 Club, you have something recreational to do although it's not leisure in the basic way—it's jolly hard work! If you happen to be on the committee, it's also a big headache, and problems keep cropping up that have to be solved. But, before you had these problems—such as transport—to think about, what did we worry about? Before you had the Club to go to, you probably came home, had your tea, switched on that little square box, and probably sat back and half-listened or half-watched and you may have been thinking all the time about how 'Mary did this', or 'Mary did that', and 'I don't think she should have done such-and-such', and the little annoyances that happened at work grew and grew until they obsessed you. Therefore the fact that you are worrying



*Part of the audience of 200 spastics listen intently to the speaker*





*Miss Joan Dathan of the Cultural Society of the Disabled, and Chairman, Tony McCorkell of Lancaster*



*Mrs. Mary Hargreaves*



*Dr. Ron Firman*



*Signora Gabriella Bertini interpreters*

about something other than work is important.

Now I should like to touch on some of the difficulties that arise when we try and organise these outside activities. We on the committee, and a lot of you yourselves have said that you are sick and tired of seeing spastic people just sitting down on chairs. We don't blame the ones who can't do anything else for doing it, but we think it's about time that the ones who can do something about it, did something—and got off their bottoms! so we thought we would try and enter for some sporting activities, and for a start, bowling. This is a marvellous activity and there are plenty of bowling alleys around where the amenities are good, but unfortunately after writing to several managers in the London area I found that access to them was very difficult. Our committee say that we as a club cannot go because it would bar wheelchair users, and people who cannot manage steps, and this is against our policy. Theatre-going is another problem. If you, as a club, try to organise a theatre trip, the first thing you have to take into consideration is whether your wheelchair people will be able to go.

Recently we committed a terrific blunder. We went to a theatre, as a club, and when I arrived, about ten minutes after everyone else, I found the manager ranting and raving, saying 'Why is it that you didn't enquire about wheelchairs?' We had two with us, and I said 'Well, I must have fallen down on this', and I enquired afterwards and I found only three theatres in the whole of London would take wheelchairs.

I do want to stress the point, however, that there are so many activities we can take part in, swimming, and even dancing, bowling and the like; but unless you as club members, make up your minds that you are really going to do them, nothing will ever be done to help you. Sufficient demand has not been made by groups of handicapped people to make these amenities better for you.

## 'More Responsibility Please!'

by **SUSAN HELMAN** (representing Oakwood)

**W**E at Oakwood are, by labour and intent study continuing our education in a purpose-built unit.

Centres are meant to be lively, outward-looking places, not places where 'those people' are 'shut away'. Hackneyed and old-fashioned though this may sound, people still have the idea that because we have to live together under one roof we are kept there for the sake of public safety!

Social integration, however, like another well-known commodity, begins at home. The atmosphere within the centre can we believe, make or mar our relationship with people from outside. When people come in they must feel they are visiting a group of interested, animated, adult individuals.

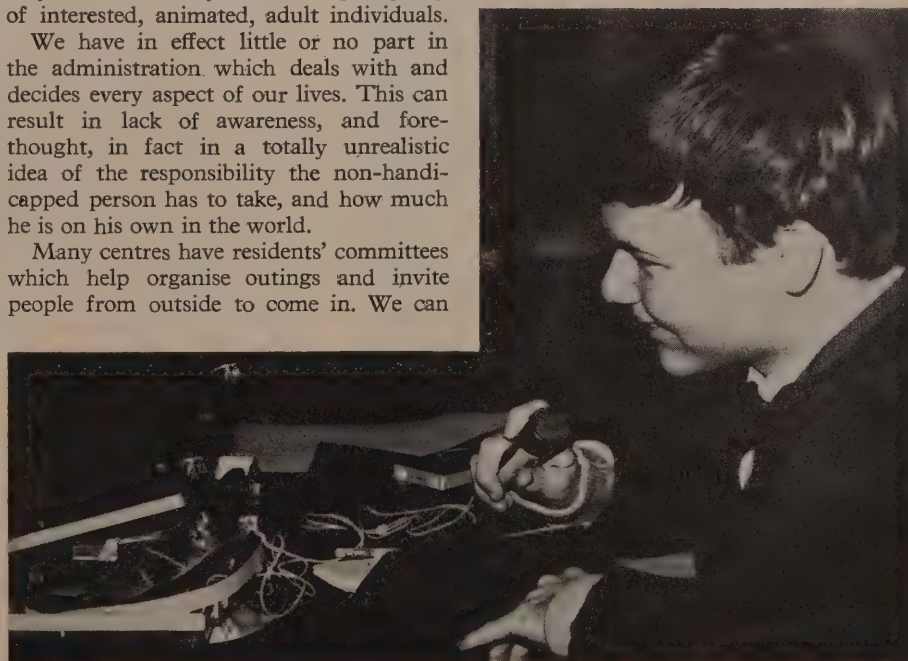
We have in effect little or no part in the administration which deals with and decides every aspect of our lives. This can result in lack of awareness, and forethought, in fact in a totally unrealistic idea of the responsibility the non-handicapped person has to take, and how much he is on his own in the world.

Many centres have residents' committees which help organise outings and invite people from outside to come in. We can

arrange things once we've had the experience of doing it and surely, if we were shown the finer points where necessary, we could ease the burden on the staff by taking more responsibility for our own individual concerns, answering our own official letters and keeping hospital appointment cards, for instance.

We have been speaking of get-togethers, but are we, particularly we residents, together too much? Do we lead lives of our own and pursue individual interests; are we sufficiently aware of ourselves as individuals to give that impression to outsiders, or do visitors feel—'see one, you've seen 'em all'.

*(Continued overleaf)*



*Gilles Lafrenière from Canada was putting the proceedings on tape*



## the '62 club conference

Some centres have a quiet room instead of single rooms. In either case, this is a help. It means that visitors are not faced with a barrage of wheelchairs unless they have come to see everyone.

We at Oakwood are in the middle of Kelvedon, which probably seemed, to the unsuspecting Society, to be a lively village. Its 2,000 inhabitants, do not, we fear believe in very much social integration. They see very little of their next door neighbours, and even less of the people at the Grange or Oakwood.

The general rule here is that everyone has to be indoors by 9.30 at night; visitors must be gone by that time. We must all be in bed by 10.30. This rule, which is good in comparison with the rules at some centres, and is late enough for normal needs, is partly due to fire precaution regulations, which are open to a wide variety of interpretations. Even the more able-bodied are not permitted to remain up later or help others to bed. This does mean that when we go out singly or in pairs, we often have to begin the return journey very early in order to be back by half-past nine.

Under present circumstances the rule is inevitable since our staff must go off at a reasonable hour, but I know some arrangement for a night-sitter-in would be tremendously appreciated.

For the moment the thing we must do for ourselves is integrate wherever we can and never miss an opportunity to take an interest in life outside the centre.



*Oliver Denly gave a most lively address*



*Susan Helman reads her paper, ably presented by the residents of Oakwood*

## 'Fight For Your Rights'

by OLIVER DENLY

WE are living in exciting times, particularly for the disabled—so much is going on. So much so that as Chairman of the Joint Committee on Mobility for the Disabled which represents about 30 voluntary organisations including The Spastics Society, even I find it difficult to keep up. When I think back over the last couple of decades, and I think how little was done to help us, the disabled, I am absolutely amazed at the extent to which people are now trying to help us, and I think we must help ourselves.

I think we should concentrate on what is called 'environmental planning' for the disabled where nothing is done at present. The town planning people take economic advice about the new centres that are built, but how many of them take sociological advice to find out what really makes people tick who go into towns, and what are the problems of the people on crutches or in wheelchairs? This is where we are on the brink of a major breakthrough.

Last year a very good poster, headed 'No More Architectural Barriers' was issued for the World Day of the Disabled by the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled. This was the start of a trend to try and educate the public to the fact that there are 500,000 disabled people, 30,000 disabled drivers of cars and tricycles, and 120,000 users of wheelchairs

in this country and that in planning buildings for the future, the town planners should take us into consideration.

There is an Accessibility Panel which has been set up by the Disabled Living Activities Group of the Central Council for the Disabled which has many representatives of all shades of opinion on it studying this problem of making public buildings accessible for the disabled, and I repeat again it is necessary to consider the disabled in their environment and not just think in terms of making a public building accessible. What is the use of having a new building which you can get into whether it is a place of entertainment, a town hall or a public library if you can't get to it, if you find there are steps or some other kind of barriers? Let us, for a moment, bring this nearer home. As a group of disabled people, we have posed, I think, a challenge to the University of Nottingham. Let us be grateful to the University of Nottingham for having been so hospitable to us, but let us not fail to point out too where they have failed in making provision for the disabled, in these buildings. I think every university in the country in the future should have facilities for the disabled.

A small point, the ramps that have been put down so thoughtfully for us have been shown that they haven't thought quite far enough. These ramps are not only too steep for people to attempt on their own, but they have been sited in the wrong place, because they are immediately opposite a door which opens outwards—which is a hazard. How can somebody go up a ramp in a wheelchair or on crutches and then open a door which immediately throws him down on to the ramp again?



*The delegates from Edinburgh, Robert Archibald and Jessie Bailey, are to be married later this year*



Now I don't say this in an unkind way but it shows that we have got to keep plugging away until everybody knows the right way to do something. You have to go up the ramp to the platform, and then turn right onto the platform as you open the door, and then go in through the door.

And, once you are in you want to go to the lavatory and you find that the doors are too narrow. Every public building or university or school should have at least one W.C. stall which you can get into a wheelchair.

Another barrier which you probably know of is revolving doors. How difficult it is to get through revolving doors in a wheelchair! Mind you, it sometimes works out, as when a boy is going in through revolving doors in a wheelchair, and a girl is coming out, boy meets girl, and bang, the old story—and they have been going round together ever since!

### A Code of Practice

The British Standards Institute are planning a code of practice which eventually will become our manual, and we hope to get all the local authorities to accept it too. In the Birmingham School of Architecture, a research study is going on under the heading of 'Public Convenience Design for the Disabled'. They really have got our interests at heart. We also have a manual on roads for urban areas, and the Deputy Chief Engineer of the Ministry of Transport has said 'Where footways are much used by perambulators and wheelchairs, kerb height should be reduced to about 1in. above channel levels adjoining pedestrian crossings and other suitable crossing points. The footway should be ramped down in an easy slope towards the lower kerb and where possible pedestrian bridges and subways should have ramps not steeper than 1 in 10'.

This is all to the good but I want to appeal to you this morning, through your '62 Club, to go out into the community, and really to be more aggressive in your approach to the public. We, as disabled people, should project ourselves into situations, even to the extent of making a nuisance of ourselves so that people do realise we exist, so that the planners know whom they are planning for. Who are the disabled? They might say. Well, what better way can they learn than to see someone confronted with a bloke in a wheelchair in front of a flight of steps.

I did this at Buckingham Palace. It did them the world of good. They had to find another way in, and there is a way into Buckingham Palace where you can go up a lift without steps. The same thing happened at St. James's Palace. I put that Palace on my black-list, don't go there! But a guide to London for the disabled is being prepared, and I think this is a start, in this country, of the type of guides they have in the United States.



*Peter Haigh (Assistant Director Appeals and Information) who opened the meeting, and that well-known conference organiser, Bill Hargreaves!*

## 'Hard Leisure For Life'

by GABRIELLA BERTINI (Italy)

AMONG the questions which our English friends of The Spastics Society have asked us to discuss is 'Spastics and Society'.

To me it seems that this ought to be given the first place, because it lays stress on our position within the community and on the attitude of non-spastics to spastics, their prejudices, and the behaviour of individuals and social groups towards us—on all the things that are the foundations of the almost invisible barriers which are so hard to overcome.

No other category of disabled persons encounters so much resistance as we do in our efforts to get ourselves accepted by the community at large. Sufferers from chronic heart disease, from T.B., or diabetes even if their condition is so serious that they are unable to do any kind of work, find little difficulty in getting themselves accepted, simply because their disability cannot be seen. Externally they are just like anybody else. You cannot say that of spastics—we are *different*. The clumsy way we walk, our awkward movements, the difficulty we have in speaking and making ourselves understood—all these things make it quite impossible to hide our disability.

There are certain categories of people who try, whether consciously or unconsciously, to maintain, or even exaggerate, these differences between 'us' and the 'others'. Since he cannot hide his disability, the spastic is assigned to a special group, and is denied the right to make decisions for himself. Some may think that this is a privilege, but for most of us it is a continual torment.

Most spastics, even in the eyes of their own relatives, never grow up. The fact that they need the physical help of other people suffices in itself to make those other people think that they have the right to dictate what the spastic should think, to criticise his actions, and to give him advice and feel annoyed if he does not accept it.

Spastics—or at all events the most serious cases—have no life of their own, they cannot have secrets, and everything they do must be done in the presence of others. That explains, in part at least, the diffident and anti-social attitudes which they often assume.

In its attitude towards spastics, Society adopts a kind of racialism, an individual discrimination which may take various forms. They are not allowed to share in the communal life, or at the most they



## the '62 club conference

are accepted only on certain conditions which leave them no room for choice.

It seems to me that while on the one hand spastics must be educated in order to fit them to take their place in society, on the other hand we must also educate Society, and make each individual member of Society accept us and give us the same duties and rights that are given to anybody else.

One of the best methods of bringing spastics into communal life is the school. attending government schools like any other child makes it far easier to overcome those invisible barriers, especially if the teacher, using words which do not offend the disabled child, impresses on the other pupils, that his disability will not in any way affect his scholastic career. But unfortunately what often happens is that parents appeal to the compassion the teacher feels for the child's disability in the hope that in this way he will be given marks that he does not deserve. Both parents and teachers must be made to understand that studying is, for the spastic, not just a means of 'passing the time', but a necessary preparation—and even more necessary than it is for normal pupils—for the disabled child's integration into his future social life.

Can one talk of 'leisure' in connection with spastics? The very word 'leisure' presupposes work. We must remember, that since most spastics do not work, their lives consist of nothing but leisure. But in reality they have been sentenced to *hard leisure for life!*



## 'We Must be Objective'

by Mlle. G. SAXER (Switzerland)

*Mlle. Saxer does not allow muscular dystrophy to curtail her activities*

Under the Italian law providing for the compulsory employment of a certain number of disabled persons by firms, etc., every such person is classified according to his *degree of disability*. That seems to me all wrong. Disabled persons would not be judged negatively, that is to say one should not say what they *can't do*; one ought to say what they *can do*. What is the use of percentages of disability? What does it matter whether a person is 80 per cent or 60 per cent disabled? This is all the more ridiculous when one thinks that the decisions whether one person is five per cent more or less disabled than another rests with some sort of committee, and it is obvious that one committee might classify him as 70 per cent, another 60 per cent and so on. For that matter there are plenty of so-called normal people who are 100 per cent incapable when it comes to some sorts of jobs, but no reasonable person would classify them as 'disabled'; they would be classified as perfectly normal, but unsuitable for certain jobs.

'There are two lines of defence we must take: first, we must be very matter of fact about our disability, neither pretend it doesn't exist nor overemphasise it. Secondly, we must try very hard to appreciate our own achievements objectively. This is anything but easy, especially if one has always been disabled: it is difficult for people who cannot walk, e.g. to estimate the effort needed to carry a certain weight or to climb a stair.

'It may be hard, but it is only fair to ourselves and to the others, if we know and accept where we cannot compete with the non-disabled. Life must be a trifle easier here in Great Britain, because you have a long tradition of sportsman-like fairness which appreciates the effort as much as the achievement, whereas in our country it is achievement alone that counts, no matter what a tremendous effort may lie behind a modest result.'



(Above) Mr. Dwelly, Hon. Sec. of the Chester Group with some delegates from Chester. (Left), A group of visitors including Herr Heinrich Viether and his mother from Germany

All the photographs of this Conference were taken by John Bundock, himself a spastic. He works for Ranks Ltd. The excellent cover picture of the May issue SPASTICS NEWS, was also one of his



## Head Harness (right)

This head harness has been developed at The Spastics Workshop, 'Chipchase', Station Road, Forest Hall, Newcastle-upon-Tyne 12, where spastics are going to make and sell it. Mr. Hodgson, the Workshop Supervisor, who has sent me this photograph, tells me that they have several in use around the country and that they are quite pleased with the design. He is, however, still trying to improve them and the production methods, but if anyone is interested and is prepared to wait, Mr. Hodgson would be interested to hear from them. He believes that the cost will be less than £2.

## Ministry of Health Electric Indoor Wheelchair

Details of this Electric Indoor Wheelchair were given in the March issue of the SPASTICS NEWS, and here are some additional details of adaptations and possible variations that can be made at the moment, by the Ministry of Health to the chair.

The removable arm rests, the brake 'on/off' lever, and the steering and drive control, can be mounted on either side of the chair, so long as the removable arm rest is always on the opposite side to the controls.

The Ministry are also developing improvements for certain conditions which are at various stages of completion.

Where the electric chair is required to be used for big indoor distances such as in centres or schools, an extra heavy duty battery will be fitted to give more hours running time.

The chair will be fitted with a feeding tray, also with a commode.

The Ministry are also developing finger lever control on the power steering and drive for those who are unable to manage the standard model. This will be for the left or right hand.

In exceptional circumstances, the vehicle will be given a faster speed as well as the standard 0.7 m.p.h.

The Appliance Officer can give more details to those who are interested.



A Unicorn device to assist spastics to type, developed by Mr. Hodgson, the Workshop Supervisor at 'Chipchase', Newcastle-upon-Tyne

## Plastic Mattress Protector

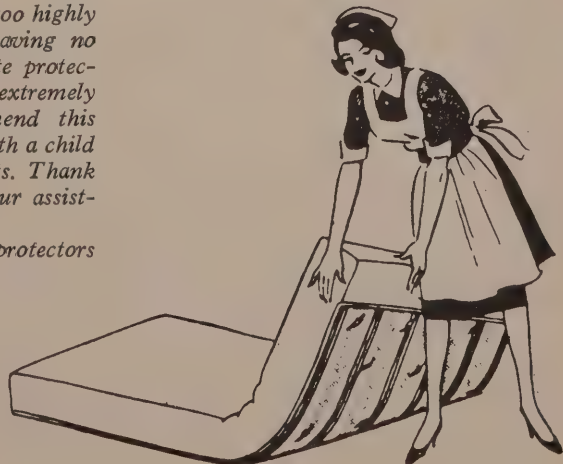
Tall Orders, of Eastburn, Keighley, Yorkshire, as the name implies, specialise in providing bedding equipment not normally found in the shops. This includes P.V.C. mattress covers in varying sizes, mattress sheets with tying tapes, pillow cases with tuck-in flap, and various garments for the incontinent of all age groups.

I recently arranged for the mattress protector to be assessed, and I quote from a letter from Mrs. Manning in Shropshire.

'After a reasonable period of trial I cannot recommend this cover too highly—it has the advantage of having no edges to be torn and complete protection for the mattress. I am extremely satisfied and would recommend this waterproof cover to anyone with a child liable to tear the rubber sheets. Thank you very much indeed for your assistance.'

The cost of these mattress protectors

vary between 12s. for a cot size to 24s. for a double bed size. The Appliance Officer or Tall Orders can give further particulars. Postage and packing extra.







Mr. W. A. Burn

## THE NEW CHAIRMAN

*Mr. Burn has been the Hon. Treasurer of the Society for the last six years and an ex-officio member of all Committees. He is a parent of a spastic son, and is well known in the regions and groups.*

### 'Mrs. W.'—Ministering Angel

IN response to an appeal from the Welfare Officer of the *Colchester and District Group*, for help to relieve the mothers of handicapped spastics, 'Mrs. W.' volunteered to take two children together into her home for one or more days in a week.

Stevie, the 11-year-old severely handicapped son of the Hon. Sec., Mrs. C. M. Acheson was one of the lucky ones, and the 'Ministering Angel'—an ex-nurse and mother—has now offered to have him three days a week and for a full week whilst his mother is on holiday.

Mrs. Acheson says that she has been profoundly touched by the way this volunteer has helped so willingly and so happily.

### Sherrards is News

WE MENTIONED THREE outside magazines produced for the disabled last month, so this month we would like to give the accolade to the first-rate mag. edited by Mrs. R. Dowler—'*Sherrards News*'.

The cover of the March quarterly issue symbolic of the Easter Sacrifice, was by Roger Smee, and a very striking idea, too. The magazine itself is a fascinating miscellany of articles, drawings, verse and personality items about the progress and life of the resident trainees and staff, written with immense good humour.

Altogether a good bob's worth!

### News from Sunderland

DURHAM GROUP visited the Sunderland Work Centre recently. The extensions to the Centre include a Store and an Ambu-

# news and views . . . news an

lance depot, and the work is almost finished. Mr. T. Williams is the new Works Manager in place of Mr. Berry, and Mrs. Churchill is the physiotherapist.

The Sunderland '62 Club formed last October is going strong under the chairmanship of Jean Stabbs.

The retirement of the Group Chairman, Mr. T. Hope, is regretted by all. He has been associated with the Society since its beginning and has been a most active supporter.

### Friends of Ponds Fete

MRS. ALICE WOODWARD tells me that the annual Fête on June 4th that she arranges for Friends of Ponds will be taking place again this year at Mr. and Mrs. Bird's lovely home near Amersham, Cheyne Place.

They have invited Rita Tushingham to open the Fête (for which she no doubt has The Knack!). Visitors will see the lovely terraced garden with a fine flight of brick steps that lead down to the stream, which is opened to the public once a year for the District Nurses' Association, and a fine range of sideshows.

Mrs. Woodward says (whether she means it or not we can't say) that she intends to retire from the Chairmanship of the Group because she is losing all her friends! When people see her coming they dodge into the Post Office to avoid her powerful pleas for free prizes, or voluntary helpers for her stalls, etc. Anyway, they have raised over £500 in the last three years for Ponds, so she—like Cleopatra—can count the world well lost for love of her fellow-men!

### Spastics at Barnardo's, too

ON JUNE 11TH, B.B.C.'s 'Meeting Point' will be devoted to the Centenary of Dr. Barnardo's Homes, under the title 'The Ever-Open Door'. Mr. Wynn Jones, who until

recently was Librarian at Castle Priory, points out that many students on the House-parents courses do part of their practical training at these establishments where there are spastic children. Even in these affluent days there is still great need for the organisation, although the pattern of help has altered to more foster-parenting. Mr. Jones is taking up a position with the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children.

### Luton Hoo Spectacular

ON JUNE 25TH, the *Luton, Dunstable and District Group* are putting on a Spectacular Military Tattoo at Luton Hoo, the residence of Major-General Sir Harold and Lady Zia Wember.

An attractive programme is planned, including the Massed Bands of H.M. Royal Marines, a Helicopter display and Parachute jumps. The Band of the Life Guards will also play. I am told that a



*Four children from Earls Hall Primary School, Southend-on-Sea, seen here with Jane Simmons in her chair bought out of money collected by the school, from carol-singing, concerts, etc. Another one has also been bought*





*Mrs. Lil Stockdale (Chairman, Sale, Altrincham and District) seen here presenting a cheque won on the Spastics Pool of £2,069 to Mrs. Patricia Clark. Mr. Frank Clark is on the left, and the Area Supervisor of the Pool, Mr. M. Walsh, is in the middle*

similar event in 1959 was attended by over 8,000 people; they hope to get nearer 10,000 this time. For details write to the Chairman, Mr. A. Monks, White Lodge, 20 Compton Avenue, Luton, Beds.

### **Shirley Keene for Australia**

THE SPASTICS CHILDREN SOCIETY of Victoria, Australia, have invited Shirley Keene, herself Australian-born, to head an appeal for \$500,000, which they are launching to pay for extensions to the Society's Centre.

A much-loved lecturer and personality, Shirley will be flying out at the end of June, and she has a heavy schedule of T.V. appearances, Radio interviews, and public speaking throughout July.

It will be a tiring adventure but a very worthwhile one, she says, and she is looking forward tremendously to the trip. She is too modest to add that it is a great honour as well.

As we welcomed Miss State of Victoria over here recently, it is a fair swop, but once again the whole cost is being defrayed by the Australian Society.

'Good on you, Shirl, that's fair dinkum.'

### **£100 in 42 Minutes**

THOSE HARD-WORKING fund-raisers, the Jersey Group, have been at it again! They had a hectic night at the Rose Bank Hotel, St. Helier recently when they counted a pile of 24,000 pennies in just 42 minutes. If not a record, this effort must nearly be one. The hotel put on an excellent buffet. Last time pennies were collected they amounted to £43-odd, so progress is good.

At present members are nearing the end

of a campaign to collect £10,000 to pay for the workrooms and equipment at 'The Bedfont', Buxton—a remarkable answer to those who say funds can only be raised for local projects.

Miss Malleson, the Society's Holiday Organiser, tells me that twenty-one spastics from all over U.K. and four escorts have just enjoyed a fortnight's holiday as guests of the Jersey Group, with a very full programme of jaunts and excursions round that lovely island.

Some of the visitors had never had a holiday before, which is hard for some of us to realise. They must be grateful to Mr. Filleul, the Secretary and Mrs. Linda Smith (the mother of a spastic) for their generous initiative. It was in fact the tenth year of these holidays, when the visiting spastics live in hotels, guest houses and private homes.

### **Mr. Peter Haigh Resigns**

The Assistant Director, Appeals and Information, Mr. Peter Haigh, M.C., is leaving the Society at the end of June to return to commercial life.

Mr. Haigh, who joined the Society from his position in Aims of Industry over two years ago has initiated many fund-raising schemes that are coming to fruition, and we wish him well in the future.

### **Miss E. M. McKay**

FORMERLY ASSISTANT Secretary in the Society's professional advisory service, Miss McKay has left to take up an

## **ews . . . news**

appointment as Senior Administrative Assistant at the North West Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

### **A GOOD NIGHT OUT**

Here's some news of a Two-Beacon Evening from Mr. G. Taylor, Lincoln Group.

'Chicken dinner, two drinks, and 2s. 6d. change from a 10s. note—no we are not back in 1930 but 1966 for this was the lot that befell twelve members of Lincoln and District Group who were invited by members and friends of the *Star and Garter Hotel*, Metheringham, Lincs., Supper Club to knock over a Beacon.

Our glamour girl, Miss M. Snell, herself a spastic, and Mr. McDowell, Area Manager of Hales Brewery, did the honours. After a most enjoyable supper and a few gin and oranges to get rid of the jitters, the beacon bit the dust at 9 p.m. to the tune of £41 15s. 0d.—a record for the County in 1966. Then followed entertainment and a few more drinks until time came for us to depart at 10.30 for we had another invitation for the next night at the *Roreing Meg Hotel*, Lincoln, when again Miss M. Snell assisted by the chief reporter of the *Lincolnshire Echo*, knocked over the second Beacon in two nights. Again the record of *Star and Garter* was broken for this time a grand total of £46 was forwarded to the Beacon Club and a very nice collection went towards starting off the Beacon again. Apart from the grand sum raised the parents of spastics had two very carefree and enjoyable evenings out and I am sure this not only fosters good relations with the Press and public but also takes parents out of their shells.'

G. TAYLOR (*Hon. Sec.*), Lincoln and District Spastics Society, 27 Addison Drive, Lincoln.

### **Amende Honorable**

MR. CUNNINGHAM, South East Regional Officer, has asked me to amend my estimate of the number of delegates attending the S.E. Conference at Thomas Delarue reported in the May issue. Apparently the number was nearer 250 than 150. My apologies, Sir!



# The Adventures of Wobbly Wheel



'What are you doing here?' said a grumpy-looking man with a droopy moustache to Wobbly Wheel.

ILLUSTRATED BY Sarah Beckett

## EPISODE\* THE FIRST

### The Day Wobbly Wheel was Sad—but Cheered up Later

**W**OBBLY WHEEL was a small but very nice green engine who worked between the country village stations, and had a happy life.

His big dream was to go to the big stations, like his two best friends did—'Speedy'—a long black, shiny engine, who took all the Important People to the biggest stations, and 'Go-Ahead,' who was a big, strong, brown engine, who carried all the coal for the people's fires, also the big parcels and things like that.

Now one day, *Wobbly Wheel's* front wheel started to hurt, so the Station Master of Willow Down, Mr. Goodheart, put him on the little sideline to see what he could do.

That night, *Speedy* and *Go-Ahead* both came to Willow Down and did not see *Wobbly Wheel* because it was a bit dark.

*Wobbly Wheel* was just going to say 'Hello', when he heard *Speedy* say,

'And how is our little friend *Wobbly Wheel*?' and *Go-Ahead* said, 'Not very well, his wheel hurts, and it will take a long time to get better, I am afraid'.

This made *Wobbly Wheel* very sad, but he did not cry, and he thought, I can't go fast like *Speedy*, and I am not so strong as *Go-Ahead*, so what shall I do?

I know, I shall start again by going slowly and quietly along the line, like I always did, and I think the passengers will still trust and love me.

Next day, Mr. Goodheart went to see him and he looked at his wheel and gave it a lot of oil in the right places, and just a gentle turn of the nuts to make it safe and not fall off.

Then, feeling a little better, *Wobbly Wheel* thanked Mr. Goodheart for being such a kind man and smiled a big but rather sad smile, and waved to *Speedy* and *Go-Ahead*, and went on one of his country journeys.

He was thinking rather a lot, and did not notice he was at a rather lonely little Station called Pine Top Halt, with flower-beds

\* an EPISODE is one of a series of events. The English word comes from the ancient Greek term meaning a part between two songs in a sad play.



of Bluebells and Cowslips and Pine trees and a funny little ticket-office.

He was looking very surprised when out came such a grumpy looking man with a big droopy moustache who said,

'What are you doing here?'

And *Wobbly Wheel* said,

'I have lost my way, can you tell me which Railway line I must go on to get back to Willow Down?'

'That's very easy, you just go a little way along this line to the Signal Box, and turn right. You will get back in no time as no-one goes along there now, but I suppose I must make the signal Green—to be on the safe side.

'More extra work and never a word of thanks'.

'Oh, but I do thank you', said *Wobbly Wheel*, but I am sorry to give you so much trouble. I do like your pretty little Station which is so quiet and peaceful, and I think you are a kind man'.

*Wobbly Wheel* then asks him,

'What is your name?'

The Station Master said,

'My name is Mr. Mutter Grumble—my friends call me "Mutters," but I don't mind because they are the ones who like me.'

'By the way, I am glad you stopped here at this moment, because there is some-one who has to go on a very special journey, and it is very important, and if you had not turned up it would have been very sad.'



**W**ould you mind taking this old lady back to Willow Down? Her name is Mrs. Mumsie, and you see it is her Grand-daughter, Judy's birthday, and she has made her a lovely big birthday cake, with pink icing and "forget-me-not" flowers on it, not real flowers, of course, but special ones for cakes, and also five pink candles.'

'Of course I will', said *Wobbly Wheel*, 'and be very pleased to, but I can't go very fast you know . . .'

'All the better', said Mr. Mutter Grumble, 'because then the cake won't get jolted from side to side and get spoilt, like in some trains'.

Now Mrs. Mumsie was sitting in the little ticket-office, and she had been crying, but when she heard *Wobbly Wheel* would take her to Willow Down, she cheered up right away. She blew her nose and straightened her best blue hat with red cherries on it and came out of the ticket-office with a big smile.

'Oh, thank you so much, little engine', she said to *Wobbly Wheel* (you see she did not know his name yet) and then she smiled at Mutters and thanked him too, and in she got, feeling very important to be all by herself in a whole train, and not a bit put out because of *Wobbly Wheel's* hurt wheel.

Then they both waved goodbye and Mr. Mutter Grumble said to *Wobbly Wheel*,

'Do come again, you are always welcome, and we can have a chat. You know engines like *Speedy* and *Go-Ahead* don't stop to think about the likes of us, with our simple wild flowers right off the beaten track'.

Then he gave *Wobbly Wheel* a big smile, and waved again, and he thought, what a nice brave chap that is!

END OF PART ONE—TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

## A Children's Story specially written for SPASTICS NEWS

by  
ANN HUGHES



Mrs. Mumsie was pleased that *Wobbly Wheel* could take her to her grand-daughter's birthday party because she had made a special birthday cake.



## EMPLOYMENT NEWS

The following news has been received recently:—

**SYLVIA FADE** from Southall, who trained at Sherrards, has changed her job and is now doing light assembly work for a local firm.

**COLIN HARLEY**, from Oldham, is employed as an assembler by a firm of handbag manufacturers.

**BARBARA HELM** from Sale, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is now employed as an adding machine operator by Messrs. A.E.I. Ltd., at Trafford Park.

**JENNIFER HOUGH** from West Bridgford, has been employed since January in the work-rooms of a firm of blouse and underwear manufacturers.

**CHRISTINE MADDOX** from New Cross, is working as a packer for a local firm.

**KATHLEEN MITCHELL** from Mold, has a job with a firm in Harwarden.

**BARBARA MULLINS** from Weymouth, has changed her job and is now working on a ticket machine in the display department of a local store.

**ANN NIXON** from Southport, is working in the offices of the local Health Department.

**ANNE PEARCE** from St. Albans, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is doing junior clerical work for the Murphy Chemical Co. in Wheathampstead.

**CAROL PURNELL** from Basingstoke, who recently completed a course of Further Education at the Society's Centre at Tonbridge, is now working as a packer for a firm of pharmaceutical producers.

**PETER STREATER** from Tottenham, who trained at Sherrards, is now employed as a general machinist by the Enfield Rolling Mills in Tottenham.

## Ann Pearce Suggests . . .

HERE are a few hints that I have found a help to my independence. And I want to pass them on to you.

### SHOE LACES

Tying laces requires two hands which isn't always possible. The gentlemen are fortunate to be able to wear casual shoes without laces. Ladies can wear slip-on shoes but they don't support the ankle enough. I get a piece of elastic sewed in my shoes in place of laces. The elastic will probably wear loose as time goes on but someone would renew it for you I am sure.

### SHOE POLISHING

Shiny shoes are always smart. Cleaning shoes is a messy job for anyone. I use 'Padawax' shoe polish which can be rubbed on with one hand and then polished with a soft sponge. It is advisable to get someone to clean your shoes for you about once a fortnight with 'KIWI' shoe polish as this will protect the leather from rough wear.

### NYLONS

Nylons look nice especially when going out. The snag is doing them up. I can not do this without wasting much of my time. The idea of having elastic topped nylons without the use of a belt has been discovered. But much to my regret these type of stockings are not being produced any more for some reason.

### BUTTONS

Buttons are difficult for most disabled people. I haven't found the answer to this problem yet except for the button hook. This helps but takes time. Also the button

won't stand up to a lot of pulling about before coming off the article of clothing.

### THANKS

It is polite to thank people for kindness. Sometimes you must be quick and say this before the person goes away after doing the kindness. One of these occasions is when you are being helped with a meal. If you say 'Thank you' before the last mouthful then you are sure to be heard.

### SHAMPOO

I put my shampoo from a glass into a polythene container. A narrow hole is already made in the screw top so there isn't the bother of undoing and doing up the top of the polythene bottle. This is in fear that I should break the glass bottle when using it.

### TOOTH PASTE

If any reader has a better way of squeezing tooth paste on to the brush, can you write and tell me please. I squeeze the tooth-paste into the wash-basin from the tube then scrape my tooth-brush against the basin, scooping the paste onto the brush. This saves the paste being wasted.

### PEANUTS

I am certain that there are many of us who like Peanuts but the question is eating them. Without the bore of picking the nuts up one at a time. I have thought this answer out. Get the Peanuts into a bottle of a size that you can grip in comfort. Then tilt the bottle against your mouth and as many nuts will fall into your mouth as you wish. You have a meal of Peanuts instead of just a taste!

## MOBILE EXHIBITION VEHICLE: June Itinerary

Date	Town	Site
Wednesday to Saturday	1st-4th Shepton Mallet	Bath and West Show
Monday to Wednesday	6th-8th Bridgwater	West Street
Friday to Thursday	10th-16th Weston-Super-Mare	Beach Lawns
Saturday to Thursday	18th-23rd Penzance	West Promenade
Saturday to Wednesday	25th-29th Falmouth	Moor Car Park



A view of the interior of the caravan, showing panels of photographs of some of the Society's Centres





### EX-SHERRARDS ENGAGEMENT

Dear Editor,

I think the following item will be of some interest to your readers. I am very happy to announce the engagement of my daughter Barbara Bayton to Tony Ellis of Tiverton. Both Barbara and Tony are Sherrards ex-trainees, and Tony will best be remembered for his part in the film 'Right for the Job'. Tony is at present working in his home town as a store-keeper, while Barbara is still employed at Decca Radar Company where she was placed by The Spastics Society when she left Sherrards.

I remain your sincerely, J. BAYTON,  
26 Beresford Road, New Malden, Surrey.

### AN APPEAL FROM SWEDEN

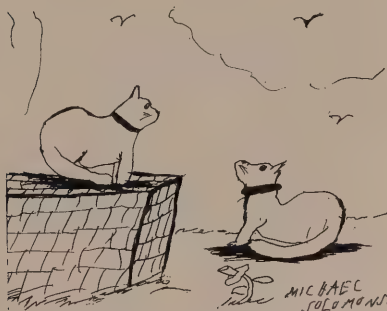
Dear Editor,

I am the father of a seriously handicapped 14-year-old girl with quite normal intelligence. She is a cerebral palsy victim. For a long time I have attempted to awaken public opinion in Sweden in order to create an existence becoming human beings for these people.

The great majority of people in Sweden live in social security. Young people are taken care of in different types of schools without regard to their parents' incomes and all people are protected by a national pensions system, by health insurance, by unemployment insurance and so on. But in the midst of all this welfare there is a group of people for whom all talk about social security and welfare is only an empty phrase. These almost forgotten individuals are the handicapped.

Sweden has such a shortage of physicians, nurses, therapists, teachers and other specialists that Swedish government has

few resources to tackle handicapped people's problems without altering the distribution of the national income. The politicians have promised other interest groups so much in the form of more modern dwellings, more schools, more vacation areas, fewer working hours, etc., that the



*'Just because Tom took me out last night, there's no need to be catty!'*

inevitable result is that there are now small economical resources for anything else.

The conditions in Sweden as to the care of handicapped people are probably not unique in the civilised world. Certainly similar conditions prevail in many places all over the world.

The handicap problems are not easily solved, and if one wants to make any progress, research work on an international basis is necessary. Such research work can, for instance, take up the problem of how a handicap may be compensated through electronics. Medical research must clarify bio-chemical and physical processes in the brain and the nerves. Scientists must also do research work in sociology, psychology, pedagogy, handicap training, and so forth.

All over the world it is now time to find new ways of tackling problems of medical care, aid and education for the handicapped. Do people in other countries mean that the United Nation's Declaration of Human Rights (for example, about social security, a right to work, a right to an education, etc.) also refers to the handicapped? Can the U.N. be expected to influence the separate nations to a more active and modern care of the handicapped? Can we hope the special organisations for handicapped persons will have a chance to influence development in a positive direction in the various states?

Yours etc., RUNE JOHANSSON, Karlavägen 6, Växjö, Sweden.

### A THANK YOU FROM NORWICH

Dear Editor,

I would be grateful if you would publish a 'Thank You' to all donors of stamps (Green Shield) on my behalf, pointing out that I have so far collected 350,000 stamps and require a further 650,000 to complete the project which I launched in December last. As you know this will be our second Ambulance obtained through donors of Green Shield Trading Stamps

which in cash value has saved my Association £1,850.

Thanking you for your help, yours sincerely, G. F. HOWARD, (*Hon. Sec.*), Norfolk and Norwich S.A., 9 Linalls Drive, Old Costessey, Norwich, Norfolk.

### PEN PALS

... Malaya

Dear Editor,

I have been writing to a boy in Malaya who is a spastic. He tells me that he would like a girl pen friend who is also a spastic, to write to. He is seventeen years of age and writes good English.

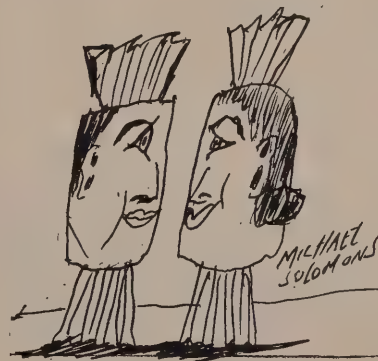
If anyone interested would like to contact me, I would be very glad to send them his address. Yours faithfully, DAVID LORD, 13 Henley Street, Chadderton, Nr. Oldham, Lancs.

... Cheshire

Dear Editor,

My friend and I would like to write to one of your spastics. We are both 11 years old. Our interests are horse riding, swimming and English.

We go to Ridge Hill Junior School, and we leave this year. If any girl spastic of about our age would like to become a pen pal would they please write to us at the following addresses: JEAN MARY BOWLER, 20 School Crescent, Stalybridge, Cheshire; SANDRA EDITH DODD, 7 Stamford Grove, Stalybridge, Cheshire.



*'Stay as sweet as you are!'*

### SOME SUGGESTIONS FROM A BRAVE GIRL

Dear Editor,

Hello! It gives me great pleasure to send you my annual subscription for 'THE NEWS', and many thanks for your welcome letter.

I see you would like to know what readers enjoy or dislike, well this reader does not dislike anything. But I would like to see more of those delightful and amusing cartoons by Michael Solomons, more about training centres and schools, and more about the wonderful assessment places.

An article about a spastic's progress



with pictures would be interesting but might be difficult to do in everyday language. And why not a—'This is my Job' page?—describing work done. Surely there is a story behind the list one just reads that so and so has got a job, or changed their jobs, but no more. Also a Hobbies page, and Household tips for the Housewives who run their own homes, as I do. Perhaps later a handicraft contest run for spastics in adult centres.

Perhaps by now you will be thinking that you have a second Editor! Anyway, jolly good luck!

I do enjoy life. I can walk with two sticks and have a spinal support and one foot iron. I look after my mother at home who is blind and cannot walk, and do the housework and all the cooking.

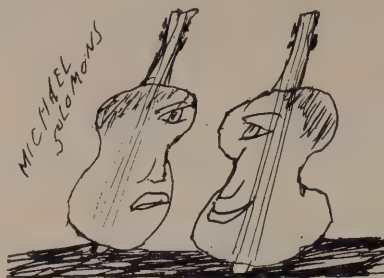
But I have many other interests too which I will tell you about another time.

Cheerio, happy days, that's the wish from: JEAN CRAIG, (Miss), Flat 59, Coronation Square, Southcote Estate, Southcote, nr. Reading, Berks.

*Editor's Note:* Dear Jean, Many thanks for your excellent suggestions, though I fear our limited space does not allow us to include all of them, at any rate, all at once. I am hoping to receive news from an ex-Sherrards spastic boy now in employment to be published soon. You will see we have put in some more of Michael Solomons' cartoons that you like. Anne Pearce has also sent us some useful hints for spastics which we will publish from time to time. So that will go some way towards your ideal magazine, we hope! with best wishes, and thanks again for going to such trouble.

Incidentally, George Stenning from

Prested Hall, also sent in some bright ideas, one of which was to have a story. Well, we have published one for the younger readers in this issue, and would like to hear what you all think of it.



*'They can't get a tune out of me tonight. I've got guitar!'*

#### *Memo to the Editor*

#### **'EXCHANGE AND MART'**

Something like this happens in most centres; a walking aid, or a special toy, perhaps a tricycle is bought for a child, or a group of children. And they grow up! The result, a good, and probably expensive, piece of equipment, is unused. May I suggest that you run an 'Exchange and Mart'—say:—'XYZ Day Centre will exchange a Rocking Horse for a Sand Tray', or 'ABC Centre has a Toy Cup-board (54in. by 3ft. 6in. by 18in) in good condition—£5 or nearest.'

M. A. MITCHELL, *Supplies Officer.*

**(The idea appears good. If any local societies are interested I could offer such a service—Free of Charge!—Ed.)**

#### **LOWESTOFT CARAVAN**

THE LOWESTOFT & NORTH EAST SUFFOLK SPASTICS SOCIETY caravan is again available this year for holidays for spastics and their families. The caravan will sleep 5 people and is situated on the North Denes at Lowestoft, virtually on the sea front, there being a ramp down to the beach and *no steps*.

Terms are £4 4s. per week with £1 deposit at time of booking, and all is provided with the exception of linen. Facilities available on the caravan site are a car park, shops, showers and a theatre nearby.

Enquiries to: Mrs. A. J. HADLEY, 17 Waveney Crescent, Lowestoft, Suffolk.

## **Spastic School Leavers**

**A Survey of  
54 London Spastics  
who left school  
between the years  
1957 & 1962**

**A record, over a period of  
years, of what happens to a  
known group of Spastic  
school-leavers**

**Price 5s 0d**

**Published by:**

**The Spastics Society  
12, Park Crescent  
London W.1**

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Please send me SPASTICS NEWS every month until further notice at the annual subscription rate of 11s., including postage, starting with the.....issue.

I enclose a cheque/Postal Order herewith.

NAME:

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

ADDRESS:

(BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE)

CUT OUT and send to:

THE EDITOR, SPASTICS NEWS, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1



# SCHOOLS AND CENTRES ADDRESSES

## SCHOOLS

### THE CRAIG-Y-PARC SCHOOL

Penttyrch, Nr. Cardiff.  
Telephone: Penttyrch 397.  
Headmistress: Mrs. C. M. Kearslake.

### THE THOMAS DELARUE SCHOOL

Starvecrow, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,  
Telephone: Tonbridge 4584. Kent.  
Headmaster: Mr. G. D. C. Tudor, M.A.

### INGFIELD MANOR SCHOOL

Five Oaks, Nr. Billingshurst, Sussex.  
Telephone: Billingshurst 2294.  
Headmistress: Miss E. M. Varty.

### IRTON HALL SCHOOL

Holmrook, Cumberland.  
Telephone: Wasdale 202.  
Headmaster: Mr. John Nelson.

### THE WILFRED PICKLES SCHOOL

Tixover Grange, Duddington, Nr. Stamford.  
Telephone: Duddington 212.  
Headmaster: Mr. R. A. Pedder.

### FURTHER EDUCATION CENTRE

Dene Park, Shipbourne Road, Tonbridge,  
Telephone: Tonbridge 5101/2. Kent.  
Principal: Mr. P. K. Mayhew, M.A.

### MELDRETH TRAINING SCHOOL

Melbourn, nr. Royston, Herts.  
Telephone: Melbourn 771.  
Principal: Mr. G. H. Crabb.

## ASSESSMENT CENTRE

### HAWKSWORTH HALL

Guiseley, Leeds, Yorks.  
Telephone: Guiseley 2914.  
Principal: Mr. J. D. Johnson.

## ADULT CENTRES

### INDUSTRIAL TRAINING CENTRE SHERRARDS

Digswell Hill, Welwyn, Herts.  
Telephone: Welwyn Garden 22125.  
Principal: Mr. V. Kings, M.I.Prod.E.,  
M.I.Wks.M.

### CHESTER OFFICE TRAINING CENTRE

Western Avenue, Off Saughall Road, Blacon,  
Cheshire.  
Telephone: Chester 26987.

### Stockport Branch

Granville House, Parsonage Road, Heaton  
Moor, Stockport.  
Telephone: Heaton Moor 8776.  
Principal: Mrs. V. S. Parker.

### WAKES HALL (S.O.S.)

Wakes Colne, Nr. Colchester, Essex.  
Telephone: Earls Colne 476.  
Warden: Mr. E. L. Chapleo.

### PRESTED HALL & THE GRANGE

Feering, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 482.  
Warden: Mr. J. H. Watson.

### COOMBE FARM

Oaks Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Addiscombe 2310.  
Warden: Mr. E. Udall, M.A.

### PONDS HOME

Seer Green, Beaconsfield, Bucks.  
Telephone: Jordans 2398/9.  
Warden: Mrs. C. Brown.

### BUXTON CENTRE: 'THE BEDFORD'

St. John's Road, Buxton, Derbyshire.  
Telephone: Buxton 3541.  
Warden: Mr. D. H. Simpson.

### OAKWOOD CENTRE

High Street, Kelvedon, Essex.  
Telephone: Kelvedon 208.  
Warden: J. H. Watson, Esq.  
Tutor/Organiser: Mrs. M. L. Birchall, M.A.

### JACQUES HALL CENTRE

Bradfield, Nr. Manningtree, Essex.  
Telephone: WIX 311.  
Warden: Mr. V. P. Devonport.

### DARESBURY HALL

Daresbury, Nr. Warrington, Lancs.  
Telephone: Moore 359.  
Warden: Mr. F. W. Bellman.

### KYRE PARK HOUSE

Tenbury Wells, Worcs.  
Telephone: Kyre 282.  
Warden: Mr. W. R. Barley.

## HOLIDAY HOTELS

### ARUNDEL PRIVATE HOTEL

23 The Leas, Westcliff-on-Sea.  
Telephone: Southend 47635.  
Manageress: Miss E. Fifield.

### THE BEDFONT HOLIDAY HOTEL

Marine Parade West, Clacton-on-Sea, Essex.  
Telephone: Clacton 25230.  
Warden: Mrs. J. P. R. Molyneaux.

### S.O.S. HOLIDAY HOTEL FOR SPASTIC CHILDREN

Colwall Court, Bexhill.  
Telephone: Bexhill 1491.  
Manager: Mr. G. H. Marsh.

## FAMILY HELP UNIT

### THE MOUNT

Elm Bank, Nottingham.  
Telephone: Nottingham 66271-2.  
Warden: Mr. P. E. Habieb.

## STAFF TRAINING CENTRE

### CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE

Thames Street, Wallingford, Berks.  
Telephone: Wallingford 2551.  
Principal and Director of Studies:  
Mrs. J. W. Knowles, B.A.

## Schools Affiliated to The Spastics Society

### BIRKENHEAD SCHOOL

43 Shrewsbury Road, Oxtou, Birkenhead.  
Telephone: Claughton 2583.  
Headmistress: Miss B. Kennedy.

### BIRTENSHAW HALL SCHOOL

Darwen Road, Bromley Cross, Bolton.  
Telephone: Eagley 230.  
Headmaster: Mr. D. A. Hiles.

### DAME HANNAH ROGERS SCHOOL

Ivybridge, Devon.  
Telephone: Ivybridge 461.  
Headmistress: Miss B. G. Sutcliffe.

### PERCY HEDLEY SCHOOL & CENTRE

Forest Hall, Newcastle-on-Tyne 12.  
Telephone: Newcastle 66-5491/2.  
General Secretary: Mr. G. H. Crowther.  
Headmaster: Mr. D. D. Johnston,  
M.A., M.Ed.

### ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL

Coombe Road, Croydon, Surrey.  
Telephone: Croydon 1434.  
Headmistress: Miss M. A. Budd.

## SPECIALISTS

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# LOCAL GROUP PROVISION

## NORTH REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and Handicapped Children's Society **C**  
 Berwick-upon-Tweed and District Spastics Society  
 Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society **WORTH**  
 Darlington and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Durham and District Spastics Society  
 South Shields and District Spastics Society **C**  
 Sunderland and District Spastics Society **CW**  
 Tees-side Parents and Friends of Spastics **TE**

### Regional Officer:

Miss E. O'Kelly, 145 Front St., Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. Tel.: 2852

## YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association **C**  
 Bradford and District Branch **R**  
 Castleford and District Spastics Committee  
 Dewsbury and District Spastics Society  
 Goole and District Spastics Association  
 Halifax and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Huddersfield and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Hull Group, The Friends of the Spastics Society in Hull and District **H**  
 Leeds and District Spastics Society **O**  
 Pontefract and District Spastics Association  
 Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society  
 Sheffield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 York and District Spastics Group **TC**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel.: 69655.

## NORTH-WESTERN REGION (Manchester Office)

Blackburn and District Spastics Group **TC**  
 Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society **O**  
 Bolton and District Spastics Society **TE**  
 Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics Group **T**  
 Chester and District Spastics Association **TCE**  
 Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District Spastics Society **C**  
 Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society  
 Manchester and District Spastics Society **TCE**  
 Oldham and District Spastics Society **OCT**  
 Preston and District Spastics Group **OCT**  
 Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics Society **RTEC**  
 Southport, Formby and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak Spastics Society **TEOC**  
 Urmston and District Group **TC**  
 Warrington and District Group for the Welfare of Spastics **O**  
 Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group  
 Wigan and District Spastics Society

### Acting Regional Officer:

Mr. F. Young, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, Room 481, 4th Floor, St. James's Buildings, Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel.: Central 2088

## NORTH-WESTERN REGION (Chester Office)

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society **TEOC**  
 Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped Peoples' Society  
 Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society  
 Crewe and District Spastics Society **TO**  
 Flint and District Spastics Society  
 Montgomery Spastics Society

### Deputy North-West Region Officer:

Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester. Tel.: Chester 27127.

## EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch  
 Chesterfield and District Spastics Society **TOC**  
 Derby and District Spastics Society **T**  
 Grantham and District Friends of Spastics  
 Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends of Spastics Society  
 Leicester and Leicestershire Spastics Society **TC**  
 Lincoln and District Spastics Society  
 Loughborough and District Spastics Society  
 Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics Group **O**  
 Newark Area Spastics Society  
 Northampton and County Spastics Society **TE**  
 Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics Group **TEC**  
 Scunthorpe and District Spastic Society  
 Stamford and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. T. H. O'Neill, 9 Regent Street, Nottingham. Tel.: 42198 and 42463

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Lane, same address

## WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society **WO**  
 Dudley and District Spastic Group **TOC**  
 Herefordshire Spastics Society  
 Kidderminster and District Spastics Association  
 Midland Spastic Association **TEOWC**  
 North Staffordshire Spastic Association **TO**  
 Shrewsbury and District Spastics Group **H**  
 Stafford and District Spastic Association **T**  
 West Bromwich and District Spastics Society  
 Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, 109 Colmore Row, Birmingham 3. Tel.: Central 3162

### Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham and Worcestershire areas):

Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Harborne, Birmingham 17. Tel.: Harborne 3182 and 2458

## SOUTH WALES REGION (including Mon.)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association **C**  
 Kenfig Hill and District Spastics Society **CTO**  
 Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society  
 Monmouthshire Spastics Society

Pembrokeshire Spastics Society  
 Pontypridd and District Group  
 Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 25725

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss A. M. Davey, 2 Saunders Road, Cardiff. Tel.: 29289

## WESTERN REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society  
 Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics Association **T**  
 Bristol Spastics Association **CTOW**  
 Cornish Spastics Society  
 Exeter and Torbay Spastics Society **T**  
 Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **COETW**  
 Weston and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped **TR**  
 Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, St. John House, 60 Staplegrove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.: 81678

## EAST ANGLIA REGION

Cambridge and District Spastics Society  
 Clacton and District Group  
 Colchester and District Group  
 Essex Group  
 Ipswich and East Suffolk Branch **TW**  
 King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics Society  
 Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society  
 Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**  
 Peterborough and District Group Spastics Society **O**  
 Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics Society **OC**  
 Thurrock and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 61747

### Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, 51 Newnham Road, Cambridge. Tel.: 54531

## WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society  
 Basingstoke and District Spastics Society  
 Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics Society **CTE**  
 Cheltenham Spastics Association **ETC**  
 Gloucester and District Spastics Association  
 Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**  
 Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**  
 Salisbury and District Friends of Spastics  
 Southampton and District Spastics Association **TOWCE**  
 Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**  
 Winchester and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury. Tel.: 4521

Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address



## NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**  
 Bishop's Stortford and District Group,  
 Herts Spastics Society  
 East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society  
 Friends of Ponds Home  
 Hatfield and District Spastics Society  
 Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society  
 Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics  
 Society  
 Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics  
 Group **TEC**  
 Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group  
 Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TOC**  
 Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare  
 Society **T**  
 Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society  
 St. Albans and District Group, Herts  
 Spastics Society **T**  
 Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics  
 Society **TEOC**  
 Welwyn Garden City and District Group,  
 Herts Spastics Society  
 Wycombe and District Spastics Society **CT**

### Regional Officer:

Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road,  
 North Watford. Tel.: 41565

### Regional Social Worker (except Essex):

Miss A. M. Ballance, same address.  
 Tel.: 41059

## SOUTH-EASTERN REGION

Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Soc. **OC**  
 Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group  
 Central Surrey Group  
 Croydon and District Spastics Society **TEWC**

East Sussex Group  
 Folkestone Group  
 Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic  
 Society  
 Maidstone Area Spastic Group  
 Medway Towns Branch  
 North Hants and West Surrey Group  
 North Surrey Group  
 North-West Kent Spastics Group  
 North-West Surrey Group  
 South-East Surrey Group  
 South-West Surrey Group  
 Thanet Group  
 Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area Group  
 West Kent Spastics Society  
 West Sussex Spastics Group  
 Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics  
 Society

### Regional Officer:

Mr. H. J. I. Cunningham, 29b Linkfield  
 Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel.: Redhill 63944  
 and 62250

### Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address

## LONDON REGION (provisional)

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**  
 East London Spastic Society **H**  
 Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**  
 Ilford, Romford and District Spastics  
 Association **O**  
 North London Area Association of Parents  
 and Friends of Spastics **T**  
 North-West London Spastics Society **W**  
 South-East London Group **T**  
 South-West Middlesex Group  
 South London Group  
 South-West London and District Group  
 Walthamstow and District Spastics Society

### Regional Officer:

Mrs. Patricia Latham, 28 Fitzroy Square,  
 London, W.1. Tel.: EUSon 2436/7

**OT**  
**T**  
**TECO**

Guernsey Spastics Society  
 Jersey Spastics Society  
 Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic  
 Development (Inc.)

**WO**  
**TEOC**  
**TOC**  
**TEOC**

### Chief Regional Officer:

Mr. A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A., 12 Park  
 Crescent, London, W.1

### Senior Regional Officer (North):

#### Post Vacant

Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate.  
 Tel.: 69655

### Development Secretary:

Mr. D. Lancaster-Gaye, 12 Park Crescent,  
 London, W.1

### Schools and Centres Secretary:

Mrs. C. A. Clifton, 12 Park Crescent, Lon-  
 don, W.1

## KEY TO LOCAL GROUPS

**T**—Treatment Available

**E**—Education

**O**—Occupational Centre

**W**—Work Centre

**H**—Holiday Home

**C**—Child Care

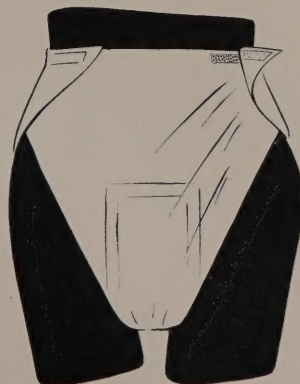
**R**—Residential Centre

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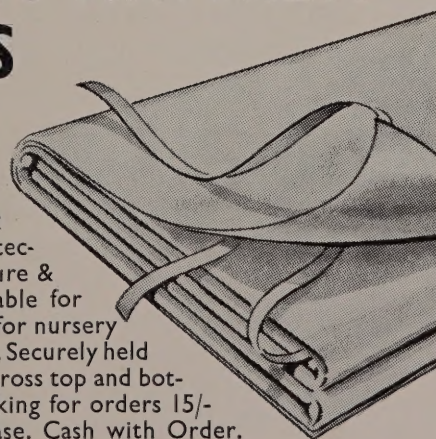
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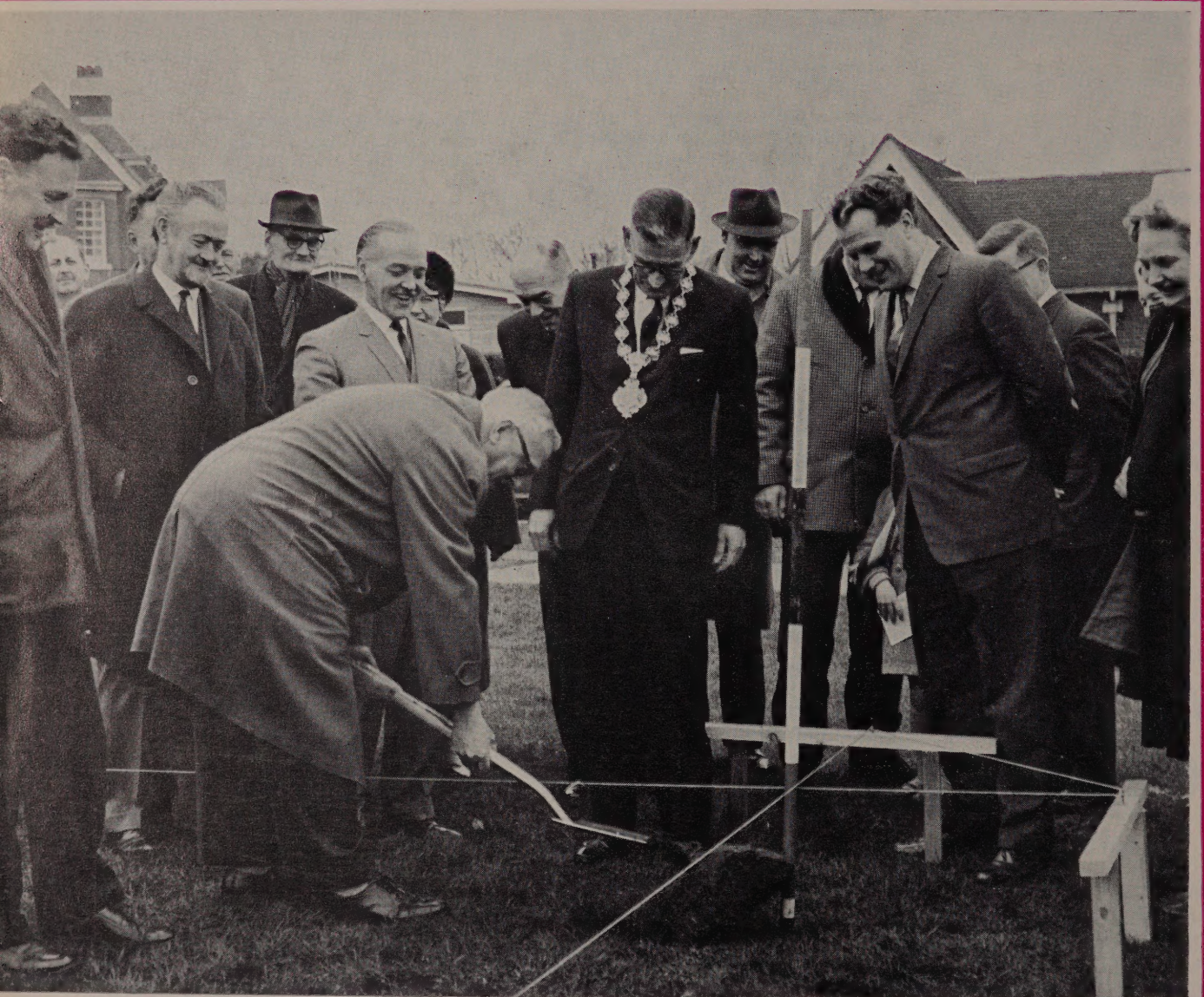


# CHAMBERS OF MERTON

DEPT. S.N.I, LONDON S.W.19



## **£74,000 SCHOOL FOR ISLE OF THANET**



(Courtesy: Kentish Gazette)

The Rev. Harcourt Samuel, chairman of the Isle of Thanet Hospital Management Committee cuts the first sod for the foundations of the Hospital Day School for Handicapped children, which is being built in the grounds of Lanthorne Convalescent Home at Broadstairs, Kent. The Society donated £65,000 towards this project which will cost nearer £74,000. Mr. D. R. A. Lancaster-Gaye (The Spastics Society's Development Officer) is on the left, and Mr. Case, Secretary of the Hospital, Councillor Edgar Neville, Mr. Wiltshire and the Matron were also present